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Brushing Away Pathogens: An Oral Care Initiative to Tackle NV-HAP

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Brushing Away Pathogens: An Oral Care Initiative to Tackle NV-HAP

BACKGROUND/EVIDENCE SUPPORT

- Through the Evidence-Based Practice Council, it was discovered Swedish Medical Center (SMC) did not have a standard for oral care in the adult, non-ventilated patient.
- Proper oral care can reduce the risk of NV-HAP (*Non Ventilator-Hospital Acquired Pneumonia*) by **40-60%**.
- In the absence of oral care, a biofilm develops with harmful bacteria in the mouth & lungs.
 - This biofilm **doubles** every 2-3 hours
 - Teeth brushing is an essential element to prevent this
- Patients who develop NV-HAP have:
 - An increased risk of developing sepsis by **50%**
 - A readmission rate as high as **20%**
 - A mortality rate as high as **15-30%**

PURPOSE

- To develop & implement an SMC standard for oral care of the adult non-ventilated patient, aimed at reducing rates of non ventilator-hospital acquired pneumonia (NV-HAP).

KEY IMPLEMENTATION COMPONENTS

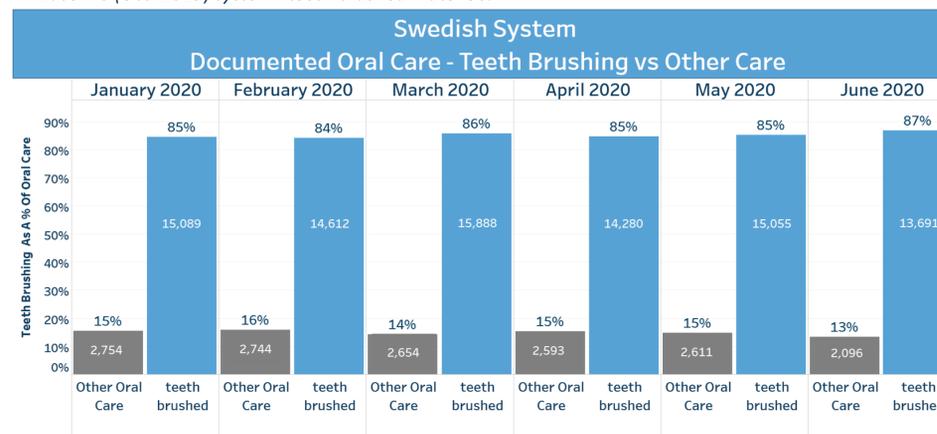
- Educational poster at the **Swedish Nursing Symposium**
- Vendor in-services** for new suction toothbrush kits
- Utilization of the **RN Champion** role to disseminate information (all campuses, all shifts)
- Collaboration with Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) for clinical support and Materials Supply Chain (MSC) for supply availability
- Plan to include **NAC Education Days** (*on hold due to COVID-19*)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Phase 1 (Completed Sept. 2019):** Develop and publish the SMC standard for oral care of the adult, non-ventilated patient.
- Phase 2 (Oct. 2019):** Pilot Project: Implementation of oral care standard on SMC-CH 5E (Neuro Epilepsy Unit).
- Phase 3 (Nov. 2019):** System-wide roll out (On all adult, in-patient units).
 - ** Initiative paused due to COVID-19 outbreak****
- Phase 4 (Fall 2020):** Plan for Future Re-launch: Reinforcing organizational focus on oral care as a long-term initiative & emphasizing necessity of oral care during current pandemic.

RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

** Baseline (Oct. 2019) system "teeth brushed" rate: 86%



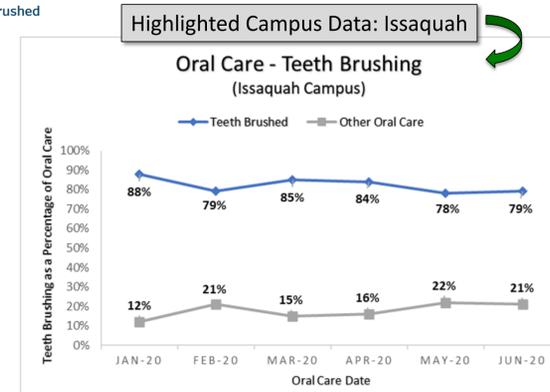
January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020:
Total number of documentation entries for oral care: 103,973
Total variation of entries: 1,298

05/23/19 0800
Oral Care

Select Multiple Options: (F5)
 chlorhexidine swab/rinse provided
 lip lubricant applied
 mouth wash rinse
 oral care provided
 oral rinse provided
 oral swabbing
 teeth brushed
 other (see comments)

Comment (F6)

* Currently, there are a variety of options within the Epic EHR to document oral care, leading to further challenges in capturing clinical rates of teeth brushing.



LIMITATIONS

- The COVID-19 pandemic emerged in the middle of Phase 3 implementation, diverting focus, education, and clinical time away from initiative—likely explaining the plateau noted in our “Swedish System” graphical data display.
 - Of note, the Issaquah campus was the main COVID hospital in the Swedish System (out of 5 campuses)—and the only campus with a **decrease** in teeth brushing documentation. This supports the explanation of the extent COVID impacted clinical areas of focus.*
- Due to limited resources and pandemic priorities, there are outcome data related challenges hindering success (documentation compliance + NV-HAP rates).

FUTURE PLANS: RE-LAUNCH

- Collaborate with EPIC teams to refine oral care documentation template.
- Collaborate with Infection Prevention/Quality teams to create unified vision, goals, and plans.
- Augment current process to optimize sustainability
 - Seek collaborative efforts with Providence ministries.
 - Elevate engagement with patients and families.
 - Long term effort to partner with bedside caregivers & SLPs through education and safety forums.
 - Maintain relationship with MSC to adapt to changes with oral care product availability & stocking.



New suction toothbrush kits now stocked in all applicable unit supply rooms, providing bedside caregivers supplies they need to do the work.